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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05099 171151Z

41
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-07 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 CU-04

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INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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PASS TREASURY FOR BOWDEN FROM HAYES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: USSAEC, SA, US
SUBJECT: DELAY IN COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SURVEY RECOMMENDED

REF: OFFICE OF SAUDI AFFAIRS TELEX 023
SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS BY US RIYADH MISSION MEMBERS WITH EDUCATION PRINCE KHALID INDICATE NEED FOR DELAYING ARRIVAL OF EDUCATION TEAM. INTEREST IN SURVEY REMAINS HIGH BUT NECESSARY CLEARANCES AND POSSIBILITY USING CENSUS DATA IS REASON FOR DELAY UNTIL AFTER RAMADAN (SECOND SEEK OF OCTOBER)
END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE OF OSAA TELEX NO. 023.

2. DR. MANSOOR AL-TURKI IS OUT OF SAUDI ARABIA UNTIL APPROX. 26 JULY. MINISTER ABA AL-KHAUL IS ALSO OUT OF SAUDI ARABIA. THEREFORE, EVEN WITH EMBASSY CONCURRENCE, THERE IS NO ONE TO PRESENT THE EDUCATION SURVEY PROPOSAL TO.

3. WITHOUT FIRST GOING THROUGH DR. AL-TURKI, I DID NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THIS PROPOSAL EXPLICITY WITH PRINCE KHALID, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION. HOWEVER,
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 05099 171151Z

MCARTHUR, BERNIER AND I TOGETHER MET WITH PRINCE KHALID ON

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

16 JULY, AND DISCUSSED THE CONCEPT OF SUCH A SURVEY WITHOUT MENTIONING THE TEAM VISIT PROPOSAL. DISCUSSION OF THE SURVEY CONCEPT WAS INIIIATED BY PRINCE KHALID, WHO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THAT HE WAS INDEED INTERESTED IN SUCH A SURVEY AND THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED IT IN GENERAL TERMS WITH DR. KHAN LAST MAY.

B. THAT HE HAS NOT DISCUSSED THE JOINT IDEA OF JOINT COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH A SURVEY WITH DR. AL-TURKI BUT WANTS TO DO SO BEFORE ANYTHING IS DECIDED ON THE SUBJECT.

C. THAT THE CENSUS DATA CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED BY THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MAY CONTAIN MUCH OF THE NEEDED INFORMATION AND THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SHOULD REVIEW THIS DATA BEFORE ANY DECISIONS ARE MADE ON ADDITIONAL SURVEYS.

4. BASED ON THE ABOVE IT IS CLEAR THAT PROPOSED SURVEY TEAM VISIT, IF IT TAKES PLACE AT ALL, WILL HAVE TO BE DELAYED. OBVIOUSLY, THE TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT WILL NEED TO REFLECT SAG DESIRES. PERSONAL OPINION, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE VISIT NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER RAMADAN (SECOND WEEK OF OCTOBER). MORE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION STAFF WILL BE IN RIYADH THEN AND USREP OFFICE WILL BE STAFFED SUFFICIENTLY TO PROPERLY MONITOR AND SUPPORT SUCH AN OPERATION.

5. I WILL DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH DR. AL-TURKI UPON HIS RETURN. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF OUR MEETING WITH PRINCE KHALID, BELIEVE WE NEED TO HOLD EVERYTHING IN ABEYANCE UNTIL THE SAG DECISION IS MADE TO REQUEST USG ASSISTANCE IN CONDUCTING A NATIONAL EDUCATION SURVEY.

6. MCARTHUR HAS REVIEWED THIS MESSAGE AND CONCURS.

7. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA05099
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750247-0301
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750747/aaaabqff.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 MAR 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELAY IN COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SURVEY RECOMMENDED
TAGS: OTRA, SEDU, SA, US, USSAEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006